

Message Text

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15
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STR-04 EB-07 AID-05 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /053 W
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R 281032Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4930
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ALGIERS 1864

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, AG
SUBJECT: ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: STATE 179170

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH SECYGEN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
ABDELMALEK BENHABYLES AFTERNOON JULY 26 I RAISED

QUESTION OF ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND REQUESTED ALGERIAN
SUPPORT FOR OUR PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENT ON SUBJECT. NOTED THAT GOA HAS ASKED FOR OUR
COOPERATION ON INVESTIGATION ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND GAVE
SOME DETAILS OF CHEMICO CASE AS REPORTED STATE 182756
TO ILLUSTRATE GRAVITY OF PROBLEM (IT IS INDICATIVE
OF LACK OF COMMUNICATION WITH ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT
THAT BENHABYLES APPARENTLY WAS NOT AWARE OF DETAILS
OF SUIT IN QUESTION). WE WERE READY TO COOPERATE BUT
NEEDED FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH TO DO IT. TO THIS END
WE HAD PROPOSED AT GENEVA A CONVENTION ON ILLICIT
PAYMENTS, BUT OTHERS HAD PROPOSED THAT FIRST THERE
SHOULD BE GENERAL STUDY OF CORRUPT PRACTICES, INCLUDING
ILLICIT PAYMENTS. WE SAW NO CONFLICT BETWEEN A CONVENTION
ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TRANS-
NATIONAL COMPANIES BUT LATTER WAS MUCH MORE
COMPLICATED SUBJECT THAN FORMER. A DECISION TO REFER
CONVENTION ON ILLICIT PAYMENT TO STUDY GROUP WOULD
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IN EFFECT DERAILED OUR PROPOSAL. WHILE WE HAD NO DIRECT

INFORMATION ON POSITION TAKEN BY THE ALGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE AT GENEVA, WE HAD IMPRESSION FROM CONVERSATIONS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT ALGERIA WAS AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES SUPPORTING IDEA OF GENERAL STUDY. WE HOPED ALGERIA WOULD FIND IT POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT OUR PROPOSITION INSTEAD.

2. BENHABYLES VOLUNTEERED THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND CODE OF CONDUCT WERE TWO QUITE DIFFERENT THINGS. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER AND IMPLIED HE THOUGHT OUR POSITION REASONABLE. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS WILL HAVE ANY IMPACT ON POSITION OF ALGERIAN DELEGATION AT GENEVA. PARKER

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